

# RELG 300-001 & -002: Introduction to World Religions

CRN 20746 (double section -001), CRN 22055 (single section -002)

(Revised 1.8.14)

- This course is currently on the approved list to count for the Global Perspectives category of the Touchstone program. (It is no longer on the Humanities and Arts list.)
- This course participates in the Global Learning Initiative by its very nature.
- This course participates in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department's critical thinking initiative with an emphasis on logical rigor, especially with the fieldvisit paper, paper workshop, and exam essays.
- This course participates in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department's effective communication initiative especially with the fieldvisit paper and exam essays.

Spring 2014. 3 credit hours

M/W 12:30 pm, Kinard 312 (section -002); M/W 2:00 pm, Kinard 018 (section -001)

Any changes to this syllabus will be announced in class and the revised syllabus will be posted to Blackboard.

## Dr. Kristin Beise Kiblinger

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Office Hours: Mondays 9:00-11:00 and Wednesdays 10:00-11:00 in Kin 324; Wednesdays 9:00-10:00 in Bancroft Annex G07, and by appointment.

Occasionally an obligation conflicts with office hours, so it's best to confirm in advance.

**Competencies.** This course helps students make progress toward the following competencies:

- 1) Course: have a beginning overview of selected world religions, with an emphasis on non-Christian traditions.
- 2) Departmental/major program goal 3: be prepared for life in an interconnected world of globalization.
- 3) University Level Competencies in the Touchstone Program:
  - Think critically and solve problems. (ULC #1)
  - Be personally and socially responsible. (ULC #2)
  - Understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which we live. (ULC #3)
  - Communicate effectively. (ULC #4)

**Student Learning Outcomes.** In pursuit of the above competencies, the successful student in RELG 300 will

- 1) Course-specific: acquire knowledge of the basic history, beliefs, and practices of selected world religions.
- 2) Related to departmental program:
  - recognize human diversity and the diversity of religious ideas, institutions, and moral codes.
  - engage seriously the perspectives of others and revisit their own worldviews and assumptions in light of the broader context of the wider world.
- 3) Related to Touchstone Program Courses:
  - Assess information from multiple viewpoints and consider the context of their decisions.
  - Take seriously the perspectives of others and reflect on experiences.
  - Comprehend the global context of their disciplines and lives; recognize how this area of study is linked to other fields; collaborate with members of diverse communities.
  - Create texts that convey content effectively and successfully express and exchange ideas.

## Required Texts:

- 1) *Living Religions* by Mary Pat Fisher, ninth edition (seventh or eighth edition would also suffice), Prentice Hall; no access code for a website or cd-rom is necessary—just the book (or e-version). This book is not to be confused with the one titled *An Anthology of Living Religions*.
- 2) online readings on course reserves through Dacus Library's website

## Required Technology:

- 1) Blackboard, a tool for online components of the course. Instructions can be found below.
- 2) Winthrop e-mail. It is important that you use your Winthrop e-mail, and check it regularly.
- 3) Turnitin, a plagiarism detection service. Instructions for Turnitin are provided with the fieldvisit assignment.

## Blackboard (online component) instructions:

1. Go to <https://bb-winthrop.blackboard.com/>.
2. Log into Blackboard with the same user name and password as you use to login to Winthrop email.
3. **Need Blackboard Help?**

**Log in issues:** Please contact the help desk at 323-2400 or [helpdesk@winthrop.edu](mailto:helpdesk@winthrop.edu).

**Tutorials:** [http://www2.winthrop.edu/webct/Blackboard\\_Training\\_Tutorials.html](http://www2.winthrop.edu/webct/Blackboard_Training_Tutorials.html).

**Blackboard User's Guide:** Log into Blackboard, and at the very top of the screen, click on the Help link, and then click on User Guide. You can search for a specific topic that you need help with.

**For additional assistance:** Please contact Kimarie Whetstone, Online Learning Coordinator at 323-2551 or [whetstonek@winthrop.edu](mailto:whetstonek@winthrop.edu).

**Students with Disabilities.** If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 323-3290. Once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Disability Services, please inform me as early as possible in the semester. If your accommodations affect every test/assignment, please remind me prior to each test/assignment. Also, the **Office of Victims Assistance** helps students access support services for academic problems resulting from victimization. The OVA is located in 204 Crawford and can be reached at (803) 323-2206.

**Safe Zones statement.** The instructor intends for this classroom to be a Safe Zone. Regardless of sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, religion, age, or ability you will be treated and respected as a human being.

**Student conduct code.** The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the online student handbook, p. 38- in the "Student Conduct Code --Academic Misconduct Policy" section: <http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>. The College of Arts and Sciences' policy for the appropriate use of hand-held and wireless technology is in effect for this class. See <http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/artscience/AppropriateUseOfHandHeldWirelessTechnologyApprovedPolicyMar2010.pdf>.

**Requirements and Evaluation:**

Participation (See criteria below.)	75 points
Tests (2) (1@225, 1@250 pts.)	475
Individual field trip and report (1 cultural events credit)	200
Final exam	250
	1000 total

Scale:	867-899 B+	767-799 C+	667-699 D+	
934-1000 A	834-866 B	734-766 C	634-666 D	0-599 F
900-933 A-	800-833 B-	700-733 C-	600-633 D-	

- All grades will be posted to Blackboard.
- No late work will be accepted after the last day of regular class (April 28, 5 pm deadline).
- No extra credit opportunities will be provided. Students need to demonstrate mastery of the material through performance on the items listed above.
- No rewrites on papers. I have found that when students count on the chance to do a rewrite, they often do not put their full effort into the original paper. Also, allowing rewrites is not fair to other students who did well originally. The proper time for revising is with drafts *prior* to the due date.

**Attendance and other policies to be read very carefully:**

1.) I expect you to **contact me promptly**, if possible in advance (e-mail correspondence preferred), **every time you miss a class if you have a decent reason for missing**. I make a judgment about undocumented absences at the end of the term in light of your overall behavior and performance. *If you rarely miss class and have been keeping up well, you can be assured that I will excuse absences for good reasons that are communicated to me promptly.*

2.) **Attendance** will be taken regularly and will affect your participation grade. Only unexcused absences hurt your participation grade. Although also adjusted for variations in the *quality* of participation, the following gives you an *approximate* idea of the **correspondence between attendance and your participation grade:**

# of <u>unexcused</u> absences	participation grade of
0-1	A
2	B
3	C
4	D
5	F

≥ 6

0

3.) Unless there has been a prior arrangement, in cases of a **missed test** you are entitled to a make-up *only with documentation*.

4.) If a due date in my class falls at a bad time for you, talk to me about it well in advance (at least 2 weeks before the due date), and I may grant you an **extension** if you have a good reason for one. Unless there has been a documented emergency or a prior arrangement made, an assignment is considered late when turned in any time after the class in which it is due, even if it is turned in later that same day.

The **penalties for a late paper**:

in on the due date but after the class in which it is due	-.33 letter grade
1 day late	-1 letter grade
within 1 week of due date	-1.5 letter grades
within 2 weeks of due date	-2 letter grades
more than 2 weeks late but by the last day of regular class	depends on quality, but in the F range

Late is better than never; some credit can be awarded even if you are in the F range. However, no late work will be accepted after 5 pm on the last day of regular class.

5.) Turnitin, a **plagiarism** detection service, will be used for this class for the fieldvisit report paper. *Students who do not submit their papers to Turnitin will not receive credit for the paper.* It is the students' responsibility to understand what counts as plagiarism and methods for properly crediting sources of information. See the English department's document on the correct use of borrowed information:

<http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/cas/english/CorrectUseBorrowedInfo.pdf>. Significant plagiarism (whether intentional or not) will result in an F on the paper and a report filed with the Dean of Students. If the case is a second offense (even if an earlier offense was from another class), it may result in an F in the course or other sanctions. Duplicate submissions (i.e., turning in the same or a very similar paper for two assignments in two different classes) are permissible only with the approval of both instructors in advance. Otherwise, a duplicate submission will be treated as a case of academic dishonesty.

**Academic Support Services:** Winthrop's **Academic Success Center** is a free resource for all undergraduate students seeking to perform their best academically. The ASC is located on the first floor of Dinkins, Suite 106. Contact the ASC at 803-323-3929 or [success@winthrop.edu](mailto:success@winthrop.edu). For more information on ASC services, visit [www.winthrop.edu/success](http://www.winthrop.edu/success). **Tutoring for this specific course is offered through the office. If you wish to request a tutor, you must attend a tutee seminar.** Also, the **Writing Center**, located in 242 Bancroft Hall, provides a free writing, consulting service. See <http://www2.winthrop.edu/wcenter/> or call 803-323-2138 for an appointment.

## Tentative Schedule

Unless noted otherwise, unit readings should be done at your own pace during the unit.

Mon., Jan 13	introduction to the course, expectations, and policies; explanation of assignment
	JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY UNIT
	<p>unit readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Living Religions</i>: Judaism and Christianity chapters. You are responsible for the Christianity chapter reading, too, although class time will concentrate on Judaism. In the Judaism chapter, the following sections may be skipped: Kabbalah and Hasidism (pp. 262-4), Passover Innovations (p. 285), Jewish Feminism (pp. 291-3). In the Christianity chapter, the following sections may be skipped: Early Monasticism (pp. 325), Intellectual Revival and Monasticism (pp. 330-331), Medieval Monasticism (pp. 331-4), Russian Orthodox Kenoticism ( p. 333), The Russian Orthodox Church (pp. 344-5), Distinctive Features of Orthodox Spirituality (pp. 345-346), Contemplative Prayer (pp. 355-7), Feminist Theology (pp. 373-5), Creation-Centered Christianity (p. 375).</li> <li>2) Online excerpts from primary texts of Judaism. See course reserves through Dacus Library. (From Winthrop's main webpage, go to the library's site, click on "course reserves" and search by professor or class for the online readings.)</li> </ol>
Wed., Jan 15	first Judaism presentation
Mon., Jan. 20	<b>MLK, Jr. holiday—no class</b>
Wed., Jan. 22	second Judaism presentation
Mon., Jan. 27	<i>Promises</i> documentary about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict
Wed., Jan. 29	finish and discuss <i>Promises</i> documentary (Reminder: you are responsible for reading both the Judaism and Christianity chapters, although class time will concentrate on Judaism.)
Mon., Feb. 3	third Judaism presentation; <b>test study guide posted</b> to Blackboard
Wed., Feb. 5	catch-up day or review for test
<b>Mon., Feb. 10</b>	<b>****test on Judaism and Christianity****</b>
	ISLAM UNIT
	<p>unit readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Living Religions</i>: Islam chapter.</li> <li>2) Online excerpts from primary texts of Islam on course reserves through Dacus Library.</li> <li>3) Online excerpts from Leila Ahmed's <i>Women and Gender in Islam</i> also on course reserves (read this one by the day we view the film <i>Me &amp; the Mosque</i>).</li> </ol>
Wed., Feb. 12	first Islam presentation
Mon., Feb. 17	second Islam presentation
Wed., Feb. 19	Film <i>Me &amp; the Mosque</i> ; course reserve reading consisting of excerpts from Leila Ahmed's <i>Women and Gender in Islam</i> to be completed for this class
Mon., Feb. 24	third Islam presentation
Wed., Feb. 26	time permitting, <i>Inside Mecca</i> film on the Hajj pilgrimage
	HINDUISM UNIT
	<p>unit readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Living Religions</i>: Hinduism chapter.</li> <li>2) Online excerpts of primary texts of Hinduism on course reserves through Dacus Library.</li> </ol>
Mon., March 3	Hinduism presentation
Wed., March 5	Hinduism presentation; <b>study guide posted to Blackboard</b>
Mon., March 10	<b>yoga activity day</b> — For the smaller 12:30 class, all come. For large 2:00 class, last names beginning A-K come today and L-Z have free day. Meet in Wofford basement community center room, dress for yoga, bring a yoga mat if you have one.

Wed., March 12	***** <b>test on Islam and Hinduism</b> *****; <b>course withdrawal deadline</b>
	spring break March 17-21—no class
Mon., March 24	<b>yoga activity day</b> — No class for 12:30 section. For 2:00 class, last names beginning L-Z come today and A-K have free day. Meet in Wofford basement community center room, dress for yoga, bring a yoga mat if you have one.

	<b>BUDDHISM UNIT</b>
	Buddhism unit readings: 1) <i>Living Religions</i> : Buddhism chapter. 2) Online excerpts of primary texts of Buddhism on course reserves through Dacus Library.
Wed., March 26	first Buddhism presentation (Be aware of upcoming fieldvisit due dates.)
Mon., March 31	second Buddhism presentation
Wed., April 2	fieldvisit paper workshop day
Mon., April 7 <b>Due date for 12:30 section.</b>	<b>meditation activity day</b> -- meet in Wofford basement community center room, dress in something that allows you to sit cross-legged on the floor, bring a yoga mat if you have one, bring socks (if you wish) for barefoot walking meditation portion For 12:30 section—turn in fieldvisit report but no class. For 2:00 section, last names A-K come today while L-Z are free. <b>Fieldvisit report due by class time only for entire 12:30 section.</b> Hard copy to me or under my office door (Kinard 324) and identical electronic version to Turnitin.com by class time. (For 12:30 section, Turnitin class id =7473584, password= fieldvisit)
Wed., April 9	<b>meditation activity day</b> – meet in Wofford basement community center room, dress in something that allows you to sit cross-legged on the floor, bring a yoga mat if you have one, bring socks (if you wish) for barefoot walking meditation portion For smaller 12:30 section, all come. For larger 2:00 section, last names L-Z come today while A-K are free.
Mon., April 14 <b>Due date for 2:00 section.</b>	third Buddhism presentation <b>Fieldvisit report due by class time only for entire 2:00 section.</b> Hard copy to me or under my office door (Kinard 324) and identical electronic version to Turnitin.com by class time. (For 2:00 section, Turnitin class id= 7473598, password= fieldvisit)
Wed., April 16	Time permitting, <i>Compassion in Exile</i> film about the Dalai Lama and Tibetan Buddhism's struggle
	<b>SIKHISM UNIT</b>
	Sikhism unit readings: 1) <i>Living Religions</i> : Sikhism chapter 2) Online excerpts of primary texts of Sikhism on course reserves through library's website.
Mon., April 21	first Sikhism presentation
Wed., April 23	course evaluations second Sikhism presentation and 25 minute film "Guru Granth Sahib: Sikh Scriptures" <b>exam study guide posted</b> to Blackboard
Mon., April 28	Catch-up day or review Deadline cut-off for accepting late work is April 28 at 5 pm.
	<b>final exam in regular classroom</b> <b>12:30 section (300-02): Wed., April 30 at 11:30 am</b> <b>2:00 section (300-01): Mon., May 5 at 11:30 am</b>